



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2008

(HELENA) --- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 3.8%

(HELENA) --- The state unemployment rate increased to 3.8 percent in April, up 0.2 percent from the March level of 3.6 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased slightly, going from 5.1 percent to 5.0 percent.

“Although Montana added over 4,500 jobs last month, it was a smaller increase than what we would expect during this time of year,” says Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. “Consequently, the seasonally adjusted job figure shows a decrease of 1,117 jobs. The industries with the largest employment decreases on a seasonally adjusted basis are construction and retail.”

Seasonally adjusted non-farm payroll employment decreased by 700 jobs. However, the total number of Montanans who are working, including agricultural and self-employed workers, decreased by 1,117 jobs in April on a seasonally adjusted basis. Montana experienced a decrease in the labor force, with 196 workers leaving the job market.

The seasonally adjusted consumer price index (CPI-U) increased by 0.2 percent between March and April. Price levels for energy were virtually unchanged in April after advancing 1.9 percent in March. The food index rose 0.9 percent, led by an increase of 1.5 percent for food at home. The price levels for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, rose 0.1 percent.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

The May 2008 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, June 20, 2008.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121